

Cherry Hill Board of Education

Notes

Highlights from the August 13 and August 27 Meetings

Recognition

The Board recognized Dr. Terry Molony, School Psychologist at Kilmer Elementary School. Last spring, Dr. Molony was named "School Psychologist of the Year" by the New Jersey Association of School Psychologists. Dr. Reusche praised Dr. Molony for her expertise, leadership, and initiative, noting, "We are truly blessed to have her as a resource in our district." BOE member Seth Klukoff, a former Kilmer parent, added that Dr. Molony has been "an advocate for every child."

Board Representative Reports

Lydia George-Koku, Cherry Hill East student representative, and Ryan Gallagher, Cherry Hill West student representative, shared news from their schools about orientations for new students, fall sports practices, and other events related to the opening of the new school year.

Curriculum & Instruction

Before moving the action agenda, C&I Committee member Carol Matlack reviewed discussion topics from the committee meeting earlier in the month (the meeting took place after the August work session). That meeting included a discussion about the district nursing policies and the new medication administration form that goes into effect on September 1; a look at new textbooks for a high school math course; and a discussion about rigor.

The Board approved attendance of various district and nonpublic school staff at conferences and workshops.

The Board approved the FY 2014 IDEA and NCLB grant applications totaling \$1,230,502.

The Board approved out-of-district tuition contracts for 49 students for the 2013-2014 school year.

The Board approved riders and/or increases to agreements with several vendors for provision of student services, specifically homebound and supplemental instruction, psychiatric evaluations, neuropsychological consultations, behavioral and social skills consultation services and instruction, augmentative communication and assistive technology services



Pictured, from left: Rebecca Tiernan, Principal, Kilmer Elementary School; Dr. Maureen Reusche, Superintendent; Dr. Terry Molony, Kilmer School Psychologist, and Kathy Judge, BOE President.

The Board approved updates to the Health Services Policy and Procedure Manual (specifically, revisions to the Medication Administration form).

The Board approved a professional services contract to provide a special education program review for the 2013-2014 school year.

Business & Facilities

The Board approved the financial reports for June 2013, including the Board Secretary's Certification and Treasurer's Report, the Line Item Transfer Report, the Food Service Operating Statement, and the SACC Financial Report. The Board approved the disbursement of funds in the amount of \$2,347,737.69 and the bill lists dated August 27, 2013, totaling \$1,628,737.21.

The Board approved a resolution authorizing contracts with approved state contract vendors.

The Board approved several transportation awards and jointures to provide transportation services for classified students.

The Board approved a resolution for the award of change orders for exterior wall renovations and electrical distribution service upgrades at Rosa Middle School.

The Board approved a resolution authorizing applications to the NJ Department of Education for grant funding for schools facilities projects. These projects, which were not previously submitted, total \$2,025,000, and include roof replacement and related work at Harte Elementary School, Emergency Generator replacement and related work at

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Cherry Hill East, and Boiler and domestic water heater replacement and related work at the Alternative High School.

The Board approved a donation from Cooper PTA of \$4,580 to purchase 10 iPads for Cooper Elementary School.

Human Resources/Negotiations

The Board approved resignations of various certificated and noncertificated staff.

The Board approved the appointment of Kathy Gendelman as Assistant Principal at Cherry Hill High School West. Ms. Gendelman has been an Assistant Principal in the Philadelphia School District since 1999, most recently at George Washington High School. She began her career as a Special Education teacher. She has a BS in Education from Penn State University, an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Beaver College, and is completing her doctorate from Widener University. She replaces Ira Kosloff who is retiring after 44 years of service in the district.

The Board approved appointments of other certificated staff, including teachers and long-term substitute teachers, co-curricular appointments, mentor teachers, and members of curriculum committees.

The Board approved various appointments of non-certificated staff, leaves of absence for certificated and non-certificated staff, assignment/salary changes, and other compensation.

The Board approved a revised job description for the position of Public Information Officer.

Policies & Legislation

Steve Robbins noted that S-1191/A-3627, legislation that would restrict a school board's ability to subcontract services and save tax dollars, was vetoed by the Governor after passing both houses.

The Board approved for second reading and adoption Policy 3516: Safety.

The Board approved for first reading Policy 6142.12: Acceptable Use of Technology. This policy was revised in June to align with the district's "Bring Your Own Device" initiative. The revisions brought forward at this point relate to the use by students or staff of camera/video/audio recording features of personal devices.

The Board approved a waiver of Procedure F-3: Secondary Field Trips to accommodate the High School East and West senior trips to Orlando, FL, and the Beck Middle School 8th Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.

The Board approved the HIB Self Assessments and Statements of Assurance for submission to the NJ Department of Education.

The self assessments are a requirement of the state's anti-bullying statute. Each school's School Safety Team was required to conduct the self assessment using a rubric with 25 indicators; SSTs assigned points (from 0 to 3) for each indicator. The maximum achievable score was 75; a score of 50 or better indicates that the school is meeting the standard. All of our schools meet the standard.

Dr. Reusche explained that each score "reflects the process – how that team works, how they provide professional development" and is not an indication of the number of investigations into incidents of bullying.

BOE member Steve Robbins, who chairs the Policy and Legislation Committee, said the scores indicate that "we are more than diligent."

August 13 Work Session

In special action on August 13, the Board approved a number of appointments, including two administrative appointments.

The Board appointed Steven Deo as Assistant Principal at Beck Middle School. Mr. Deo served most recently as Assistant Principal at Wood-Ridge Public Schools. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in History and Master of Arts in Education from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and also holds a Master of Arts in Administration from Kean University. He has taught Humanities/Social Studies at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Mr. Deo's appointment was effective August 5.

Also at the August 13 meeting, the Board approved the appointment of Alexander Rosenwald as the District's Science Supervisor. Mr. Rosenwald is currently the Science Supervisor for the West Orange Public Schools and served for more than six years as a teacher in the Science Department of the Freehold Regional High School District. He holds a BA in Chemistry from Drew University, an MAT-Secondary Certification in Physical Science and MEd in Educational Leadership from Monmouth University. Mr. Rosenwald's appointment is effective on or about October 6.

Following the brief special action meeting, the Board conducted its monthly work session., sharing reports from the August Committee Meetings and reviewing the action agenda.